

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 T-03 SY-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /114 W
----- 032248

R 121800 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4487

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, EI

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS PROVO SPLIT OVER LONDON BOMBINGS

1. MOST IRISH NEWSPAPERS ARE REPORTING DEEP SPLIT IN PROVO IRA LEADERSHIP OVER LONDON BOMBINGS, WHICH ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN ACTION OF BELFAST PROVOS, OPPOSED BY DUBLIN LEADERSHIP. SO FAR, PROVO HEADQUARTERS HERE HAVE NOT RELEASED ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT BEYOND PUBLICITY DIRECTOR SEAN O BRADAIGH' S COMMENT THAT HE WAS AS PUZZLED ABOUT BOMBINGS AS ANYONE ELSE (DUBLIN 321). WITH THEIR HEADQUARTERS CLOSED AND MANY LEADERS IN HIDING, PROVOS HAVE LATELY HAD MORE TROUBLE GETTING OUT STATEMENTS ON ANY SUBJECT, BUT THIER LONG DELAY IN THIS CASE IS TAKEN AS EVIDENCE OF REAL PROBLEMS.

2. COMMENT: IF PRESS REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, DUBLIN/ BELFAST SPLIT IS IMPORTANT SIGN OF PROVO DECLINE. PROVOS HAVE TAKEN PRIDE IN CHOESION AND DISCIPLINE. LOCAL COMMANDERS, NATURALLY, ALWAYS HAD TO BE ALLOWED MUCH FLEXIBILITY, BUT OVERALL LEADERSHIP WAS UNIFIED ON SURFACE. WE BELIEVE THAT LEADERSHIP WAS REMARKABLY OBTUSE WHEN IT FAILED STRIKE BARGAIN WITH WHITELAW IN EARLY 1972, BUT THAT IS ANOTHER QUESTION.

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3. APPARENT DISARRAY MAY BE IN PART A RESULT OF NI
REVERSES AND IN PART A CONSEQUENCE OF MACSTIOFAIN' S
ARREST. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT DUBLIN PROVOS
ARE INTERESTED IN RETRIEVING SOMETHING FROM SITUATION
BY MORE POLITICAL FLEXIBILITY. PROVOS HAVE LOST MUCH
OF THEIR BARGAINING POWER, BUT END OF THEIR NI CAMPAIGN
WOULD STILL BE EXTREMELY WELCOME DEVELOPMENT. AT THIS
POINT, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THERE IS SUCH A THING
AS CENTRAL LEADERSHIP THAT COULD STRIKE A BARGAIN AND
KEEP IT. MOORE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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